entrust private sector with generation of hydro-electricity;

(b) if so, the response of the private sector thereto;

(c) whether any policy decision has been taken by Government in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (d) The policy encouraging private investment in power sector which was initiated in 1991 also permits private sector to set up hydro electric power projects. As on date expressions of interest have been received for setting up of 27 hydro-electric power project in private sector for a capacity addition of 4148 MW costing approx. Rs. 11763.00 crores.

Competitive bidding for Private Sector Projects

2816. SHRI BALBIR SINGH:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the projects for which competitive bids were invited from private sector/joint sector companies to put up power plants in the various States during the last 3 lyears and the date(s) of opening of such tenders;

(b) the names of the Projects for which orders have already been finalised, together with the names of the Companies and the date of placement of such Orders; and

(c) the projects for which orders have not yet been finalised and the reasons for delay in the finalisation of these orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Demand for Counter Guarantee To US Power Comapnies

2817. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry knows of any other country in the World which has an indigenous power equipment manufacturing base but does not provide any protection to its power equipment manufacturers; and

(b) whether it is a fact that US Energy Secretary pressed the case for counter guarantees to be given to US power companies during her recent visit to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Ministry of Power does not have details of protection policies followed by other countries with regard to their power equipment manufacturers.

(b) The issue of counter-guarantee was mentioned by the US Energy Secretary during her discussions.

Offer by BHEL in Koyna Project

2818. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether BHEL was the lowest bidder in Koyna Project;

(b) whether the BHEL's quotation was construed by the prime consultant, CEA, as the best offer both from the commercial and technical standpoints;

(c) whether it is a fact that BHEL was declared non-responsive afterwards on the advice of Swiss review consultant; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (d) The evaluation of the bid for the equipment to be supplied for the Koyna Project Stage-IV was carried out by Central electricity Authority (CEA); the Consultants and M/s. SGI Consulting Engineer, the Review Consultants. Though the CEA evaluated the offer of BHEL-GE, Canada as the lowest, the Review Consultants held that the tender submitted by M/s. BHEL-GE, Canada was non-responsive.

The Government of Maharashtra considered the bids and found the offer of M/s. BHEL-GE, Canada to be non-responsive and awarded the contract for the supply of equipment to lowest responsive bidder.

Reduction in Transmission and Distribution Losses

2819. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Pollution Control Board has suggested a technique by which as much as 12,000 MW additional power can be generated from the existing plants by reducing transmission and distribution losses;

(b) whether with an investment of Rs. 12,000 crore, 12,000 MW more power could be generated from the plants that are already functioning as indicated in the CPCB study;

(c) whether Government have studied the observations made;

(d) if so, whether the percentage of power transmission and distribution loss in India is 23-24% and this is higher than the that in Korea, Taiwan, Japan and US; and

(e) if so, what are the measures being considered by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c) The Central Pollution Control Board in their report captioned "PRE-REQUISITES FOR POLLUTION CONTROL IN POWER GENERATION PLANTS AND AUTOMOBILIES IN URBAN AREAS" has indicated that with an investment of Rs. 12400 crores, it may be possible to generate as much as 12000 MW of additional power by optimizing the existing power plants. The report only mentions that 1% saving in transmission and distribution loss would be equivalent to 380 MW and pottential for saving of power by bringing down transmission and distribution losses in the country is around 4000 MW. However, no technique for reduction of T&D losses has been suggested in the report.

(d) The percentage of transmission and distribution losses in India is around 22% and is higher than that in Korea, Taiwan, Japan and United States.

(e) Most of transmission and distribution losses occur in the distribution phase. Distribution being a state subject, gudelines for reducing T&D losses have been issued to Power Utilities for taking appropriate action in the matter These guidelines, *inter-alia*, include conducting of energy audit for identifying system elements responsible for higher losses, formulation of System Improvement schemes to strengthen the transmission and distribution system, installation of capacitors to improve voltage profile, installation of meter inside tamper proof boxes, setting up of vigilance squades to detect cases of theft of energy and introduction of Incentive Scheme since 1987-88 for providing incentives to the State Electricity Boards/ electricity Departments and their Divisions to bring about reduction in transmission and distribution losses in their system.

Theft of energy has been made a cognizable offence under the amended provisions of Section-39 of Indian Electricity Act, 1910.